

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01 OIC-04

ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 INR-10

NSAE-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /180 W

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P R 271900Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 431

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS/ PINS, ETRN, PFOR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: ROME CONFERENCE/ASSEMBLY

PLEASE PASS TO: LITTELL/CAB; DRISCOLL/DOT: STEWART/FAA

FROM AMB ROUNTREE

1. BECAUSE OF LATE ARRIVAL OF MANY DELEGATIONS OUR
PRE CONFERENCE CONSULTATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN AS EXTENSIVE
AS WE HAD HOPED AND EXPECTED: NEVERTHELESS A NUMBER OF
USEFUL CONTACTS HAVE BEEN MADE TODAY, FROM WHICH MAIN
POINTS ARE SUMMARIZED FOR INFORMATION INTERESTED AGENCIES:

2. AMB ROUNTREE MET WITH ICAO COUNCIL PRESIDENT
BINAGHI WHO HAD NOT YET SEEN ARAB DELEGATES BUT EXPECTED
TO DO SO LATE TODAY SHORTLY AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL. HE HAD GATHERED
INFORMALLY THAT THERE WAS PROSPECT, PERHAPS STRONG, THAT ARABS

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SO VALUED UNANIMITY OF PREVIOUS CONDEMNATIONS OF ISRAEL IN

UNSC AND ICAO COUNCIL THAT THEY WOULD FOREGO DEMAND FOR SANCTIONS. IF THIS WERE CORRECT, PROBLEMS IN MEETINGS WOULD OF COURSE BE GREATLY REDUCED AND HE HOPED THAT ISRAELI MATTER COULD BE DISPOSED OF IN SECOND DAY OF DELIBERATIONS OF ASSEMBLY. HE EXPECTED TO SERVE AS INTERIM PRESIDENT THROUGH THIS PERIOD, AT WHICH POINT DIALLO (SENEGAL) WOULD BE INSTALLED PURSUANT TO CONSENSUS WHICH HE HAD ALREADY PERCEIVED.

3. WHILE FINAL DECISION ON TWO PRESIDENTS (CONFERENCE AND ASSEMBLY) JUST AWAIT INFORMAL MEETING OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS TOMORROW, BINAGHI ANTICIPATED NO SUBSTANTIAL OBJECTION TO SCIOLEA LA GRANGE AS PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE AND DIALLO AS PRESIDENT OF ASSEMBLY. DESPITE INDICATIONS WHICH WE HAD EARLIER RECEIVED THAT BINAGHI DID NOT HOLD DIALLO IN HIGH REGARD, IN OUR MEETING, HE EXTOLLED HIS VIRTUES AND SAID HE FELT CERTAIN DIALLO WOULD SERVE AS ABLE AND OBJECTIVE CHAIRMAN. HE, IN ANY EVENT, MINIMIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF INFLUENCE OF THE CHAIRMAN. WHEN AMB ROUNTREE REFERRED TO POSSIBILITY OF ISSUES ARISING SUCH AS ORDER UPON WHICH VOTES WOULD BE TAKEN IN ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS, HE AGREED THAT THIS COULD PRESENT PROBLEM ALTHOUGH HE FELT DIALLO WOULD BE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND AVOID CHARGES OF PARTIALITY.

4. BINAGHI STATED HIS INTENTION PROPOSE AS VICE PRESIDENTS OF CONFERENCE, REPRESENTATIVES FROM LATIN AMERICA, ASIA, EASTERN EUROPE AND AFRICA EXCLUDING WESTERN EUROPE SINCE PRESIDENCY WOULD BE HOLD BY ITALIAN. IN ASSEMBLY HE WOULD PROPOSE REPRESENTATION OF WESTERN EUROPE, LATIN AMERICA, ASIA AND EASTERN EUROPE. SINCE FRENCH SPEAKING AFRICAN WILL HOLD ASSEMBLY PRESIDENCY, ENGLISH SPEAKING AFRICAN SHOULD BE CHOSEN AS 4TH VICE PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE. BIG COUNTRIES (US, USSR, ETC.) WILL BE ASKED FOREGO THESE POSITIONS. BINAGHI ALSO HOPED AND EXPECTED TO AVOID ANY CONSIDERATION OF DELEGATES OF CUBA, CHILE OR VIET NAM FOR VICE PRESIDENCIES.

5. BINAGHI EXPRESSED STRONG PREFERENCE THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DELEGATES OPENING STATEMENTS BE DESIGNED TO COVER BOTH ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE WITH ASSURANCE THAT AS APPROPRIATE, THEY WOULD BE PUBLISHED IN PROCEEDINGS OF BOTH. HE CONSIDERED THIS TO BE ONE OF SEVERAL MEANS OF EXPEDITING PROCEEDINGS SO THAT CONSTRUCTIVE ASPECTS CAN BE MORE READILY ACHIEVED. HE EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT OPENING STATEMENTS WOULD CONTAIN MINIMAL POLITICAL RHETORIC AND IN THIS REGARD SAID HE HAD ENDEAVORED DISCOURAGE

ARABS FROM ANY EFFORT SEEK ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL AS
WAS TAKEN AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AND PORTUGAL (I.E.
EXCLUSION FROM CERTAIN ICAO PROCEEDINGS AND DOCUMENTS).

6. AMB ROUNTREE EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH
TO AVOIDING CHANGE IN RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR CONFERENCE
TO ACCOMMODATE UK/SWISS/FRENCH PROPOSAL RE PROVISIONAL
RULE TO, AND SAID HE HOPED BINAGHI WOULD USE HIS
INFLUENCE TO DEFEAT THIS IDEA AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.
BINAGHI SHARED OUR VIEW THAT MODIFICATION OF RULE 20
WOULD ESTABLISH EXTREMELY BAD PRECEDENT BUT SAID HE
HAD BEEN THINKING ALONG LINES ADOPTION EARLY IN
PROCEEDINGS ALL RULES EXCEPT RULE 20 WITH INDICATION
THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED LATER. ROUNTREE AGAIN
EMPHASIZED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR DECIDING MATTER
FAVORABLY AT OUTSET IF THIS PRACTICABLE.

7. ICAO SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS INDICATED TO USDEL
MEMBER THAT BINAGHI PLANNED DEPART HOME AT END OF WEEK
TO ATTEND REGIONAL ICAO MEETING IN HONOLULU. HE WOULD
LEAVE SECRETARY GENERAL KOTAITE (LEBANESE) AT HOME MEETING.

8. WHEN ROUNTREE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF RETAINING
ALTERNATE DAY SCHEDULE FOR ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE,
BINAGHI RESPONDED FAVORABLY AND SAID HE ALSO WISHED
ASSURE THAT ISRAELI DELIBERATIONS DID NOT DESTROY PROPER
BALANCE. HE SOUGHT ROUNTREE'S CONCURRENCE IN SLIGHT
AMENDMENT OF SCHEDULE PERMITTING ASSEMBLY TO CONTINUE
DURING AFTERNOON FIRST DAY FOLLOWING BRIEF OPENING
CEREMONY FOR CONFERENCE AND ALL OF SECOND DAY BY WHICH
TIME HE HOPED OPENING STATEMENTS WOULD BE COMPLETED
AND ISRAELI MATTER DISPOSED OF. WHETHER OR NOT
THIS POSSIBLE, WHICH SEEMS TO USDEL QUESTIONABLE, BINAGHI
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AFFIRMED THAT THIRD DAY WOULD BE DEVOTED TO CONFERENCE
WHICH WOULD THEN MEET ON ALTERNATE DAYS THEREAFTER.

9. FOLLOWING UP HUFFMAN'S SUGGESTION AUGUST 26 FOR
FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON LEGAL MATTERS, ISRAELI AMB
NAJAR AND AMB BARMOR CAME IN FOR EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION
ON LEGAL CONCEPTS DEVELOPED BY USDEL OVER WEEKEND
REGARDING POSSIBLE SANCTIONS (SEE LEGAL BRIEF REPORTED
BY SEPTEL). IT APPEARED USDEL'S EFFORTS BY ISRAELIS
WHO WERE FULLY APPRECIATIVE. THEY EXPRESSED HOPE LEGAL
FACTORS COULD BE UTILIZED EFFECTIVELY TO INFLUENCE
DRAFTING OF RESOLUTION. THEY EXPRESSED FEAR, HOWEVER,
THAT LEGAL POINTS, HOWEVER MERITORIOUS, WOULD
NOT PREVAIL IF ISSUES REACHED FORMAL DEBATING STAGE.

10. ON ADMINISTRATIVE PLANE, ALL DELEGATIONS ARE
MOST UNHAPPY, AS ARE WE, WITH SEATING ARRANGEMENTS
WHICH PERMIT ONLY TWO PERSONS (CHIEF DELEGATE PLUS ONE)
TO ATTEND PROCEEDINGS OF EITHER ASSEMBLY OR CONFERENCE.
WE WILL BE WORKING TO TRY TO ALLEVIATE COMMUNICATIONS
AND OTHER PROBLEMS THIS WILL ENTAIL BUT ANTICIPATE
SUBSTANTIAL INCONVENIENCE FOR ALL DELEGATION MEMBERS.
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